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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT						Filing Date			Concomitantly herewith			
						First Named Inventor			Shoichiro TAIRA et al			
						Group Art Unit						
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Examiner Signature					/John Zimm	erman/	Date Considered		03/17/2007			

DATE MAILED: JANUARY 18, 2005

<sup>•</sup> EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

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STATE	EMENT	BY	PLACANT	First N	amed Inventor	Shoichiro TAIRA et al			
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		May	THERMAN	Examine	r Name	John ZIMMERMAN			
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## DATE MAILED: February 8, 2007

¹ Unique citation designation number. ¹ See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ¹ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ¹ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁴ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

<sup>\*</sup>English language translation

<sup>\*\*</sup>USP 5,525,431 is a related family member of WO 91/09152

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box  $\rightarrow$ PTO/SB/08A (08-00) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 10/521,474 Application Number Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO February 9, 2005 Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Shoichiro TAIRA et al. STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor 1775 Group Art Unit FFR 0 8 7007 John ZIMMERMAN Examiner Name 05028/HG Attorney Docket Number Sheet οf 2 1 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Relevant Publication Cite Exam. Document Number Code<sup>2</sup> Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Inits\* No1 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Kind T<sup>6</sup> Code<sup>5</sup> Applicant Date MN-DD-YYYY Portion Document Number Inits' Offc' 01-09-2002 NKK CORP A JΡ 2002-004019 /JZ/ /JZ/ NKK CORP JP 2002-004020 Α 01-09-2002 /JZ/ NIPPON STEEL CORP 07-26-1990 02-190483 Α JP /JZ/ NIPPON STEEL CORP 08-21-1991 JΡ 03-191091 A /JZ/ NIPPON STEEL CORP 08-21-1991 JP 03-191092 Α 08-21-1991 Α NIPPON STEEL CORP JP 03-191093 /JZ/ NIPPON STEEL CORP 08-21-1991 JP 03-191094 Α /JZ

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<sup>\*</sup>English language Abstract enclosed.